

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12307 231514Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----053344 231515Z /42

O R 231446Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7618
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 12307

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, EG, LY
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN HOSTILITIES

REF: (A) CAIRO 12231, (B) CAIRO 12279, (C) CAIRO 12302

1. AS OF NOON, JULY 23, SUCH LIMITED INFORMATION AS WE HAVE RE EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER SITUATION SUGGESTS THAT FOR MOMENT AT LEAST THINGS ARE PASSIVE. WE HAVE NOTED LIBYAN CLAIMS OF AIR ATTACK ON ADHAM AND KUFRA AIR BASES, BUT GOE HAS DENIED THIS. UNFORTUNATELY, DATT UNABLE CONTACT DMI/MG SHAWKAT OR OTHER SENIOR EGYPTIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS, ALL OF WHOM ARE UNDERSTOOD BE NEAR FRONT OR WITH SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA OBSERVING SITUATION.

2. IN HIS SPEECH TO ASU MUNICIPALITIES CONGRESS LAST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 12307 231514Z

NIGHT, SADAT CHARGED QADHAFI WITH PAST PERFIDY AGAINST EGYPT, WARNED LIBYAN LEADER HE IS PLAYING WITH FIRE AND ANNOUNCED TO AN ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY FORCES HAD TAUGHT QADHAFI LESSON BY INFLECTING HEAVY TANK AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES PREVIOUS DAY. AS REPORTED REF A, EARLIER IN DAY SADAT HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR HE EXPECTS ESCALATION BEFORE SITUATION

SUBSIDES. HE DID NOT SAY AT THE TIME THAT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT PLANNED TO ATTACK ADHAM (GAMAL ABDEL NASSER) AIRFIELD JUST SOUTH OF TOBRUK, BUT CLAIMED LIBYANS SENDING UNSPECIFIED REINFORCEMENTS TO AIRFIELD. EGYPTIAN RAID ON ADHAM AIRFIELD (EGYPTIAN MEDIA STUDIOUSLY AVOID USING TERM "GAMAL ABDEL NASSER" AIRFIELD) YESTERDAY AFTERNOON SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN RETALIATION FOR LIBYAN ATTACK EARLIER IN THE DAY ON SOLLUM AIRFIELD. SADAT MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT, BUT SAID NOTHING.

4. EGYPTIANS ARE CURRENTLY WAITING TO SEE HOW SITUATION WILL EVOLVE. VIEWS ARE DIVIDED. SOME BELIEVE QADHAFI HAS RECEIVED BLOODY NOSE IN TERMS OF TANK OR OTHER EQUIPMENT LOSSES INFLICTED ON LIBYANS AND WILL NOW DESIST FROM FURTHER UNIT-SIZE MILITARY ACTIVITIES, LIMITING HIMSELF TO SMALL-SCALE HIT AND RUN ACTIVITIES, SUBVERSION AND PROPAGANDA WARFARE. OTHERS BELIEVE QADHAFI, THOUGH STUNG, IS MAD ENOUGH TO WANT TO STRIKE BACK. FAILURE TO DO SO, THEY ARGUE, WOULD CAUSE HIM LOSE FACE. THIS SCHOOL ALSO BELIEVES SOVIETS CULPABLE FOR INSTIGATING LIBYAN ATTACK.

5. BOTH EGYPTIANS AND LIBYANS ARE BUSILY AT WORK EXCHANGING MEDIA CHARGES AND POLEMICS. THIS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE FOR TIME BEING. IF LIBYANS NOW STAND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 12307 231514Z

BACK, BELIEVE GOE WOULD BE WILLING LET MATTERS STAND AS THEY ARE, AT LEAST FOR NOW. SENIOR EGYPTIAN MILITARY ARE NOT HANKERING FOR FIGHT WITH LIBYA, WHICH THEY REGARD AS DIVERSIONARY TO MAIN ISRAELI THREAT. HOWEVER, SHOULD THERE BE FURTHER LIBYAN PROVOCATIONS, THEY WILL REACT. WHILE SADAT RELISHES OPPORTUNITY CHASTISE QADHAFI, WE BELIEVE HE TOO FEELS HIS IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE MET. HE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OVER-ALL ARAB REACTION AND WITH SECRETARY VANCE DUE TO ARRIVE NEXT WEEK, GOE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS ISSUE SUBSIDE.

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE ARAFAT MEDIATION STILL GOING ON. ARAB LEAGUE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM AND ASST SYG NOWFAL TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT SYG MAHMOUD RIAD HAD SENT URGENT MESSAGES TO SADAT AND QADHAFI URGING CEASEFIRE AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES. NOWFAL CANDIDLY ADMITTED AL APPEAL NOT VERY POTENT AND SEEMED TO PLACE HIS HOPES MAINLY ON ARAFAT'S ACTIVITIES.

7. IN SOME EGYPTIAN QUARTERS, BORDER HOSTILITIES HAVE GIVEN RISE TO HOPE THAT THIS IS OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR ANTI-QADHAFI DISSIDENTS TO RISE AGAINST LIBYAN LEADER.

SOME OF EGYPTIAN MEDIA ATTACKS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY
ARE CLEARLY INTENDED ENCOURAGE DISSIDENT ACTIVITY.
OVER PAST MONTHS EGYPTIANS HAVE RELUCTANTLY COME TO
RECOGNIZE THAT, HOWEVER UNPOPULAR QADHAFI MAY BE,
ACTIVE INSURGENCY AGAINST HIM IS EASIER TO TALK ABOUT
THAN TO STIMULATE. PREDICTABLY, RECENT HOSTILITIES
HAVE AGAIN HEIGHTENED HOPES ANTI-QADHAFI ELEMENTS
WILL NOW MOVE.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPORTS, UNDECLARED WAR, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO12307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770263-0876
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770726/aaaaawit.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ed3f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 CAIRO 12231, 77 CAIRO 12279, 77 CAIRO 12302
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1768939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN HOSTILITIES
TAGS: MOPS, EG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ed3f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009